

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, BU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BULGARIAN PARLIAMENTARY
DELEGATION

1. WHILE CALLING ON DEPUTY ASST SECY ARMITAGE ON CYPRUS SITUATION (SEPTTEL) AMBASSADOR POPOV TOOK OCCASION RAISE WITH ARMITAGE POSSIBLE VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF SPEAKER OF BULGARIAN PARLIAMENT BONEV. BONEV, ACCORDING POPOV, WILL HEAD DELEGATION GOING TO CANADA DURING FIRST HALF SEPTEMBER ON OFFICIAL INVITATION SPEAKER CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS. POPOV WANTED TO HAVE BONEV AND DELEGATION COME HERE AS WELL, AND THEREFORE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN WITH SENATOR SPARKMAN REGARDING A POSSIBLE BONEV VISIT. ACCORDING POPOV, SPARKMAN ASSENTED, HAD ORALLY "INVITED" BONEV, HAD OFFERED TO HOST A LUNCHEON FOR HIM AND THEN TURNED MATTER OVER TO HIS ASSISTANT, A MRS. WATSON. POPOV NOW WANTED TO SOUND OUT ARMITAGE ON THE POSSIBLE BONEV VISIT.

2. ARMITAGE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE UP TO BULGARIANS TO DECIDE WHETHER BONEV WISHED TO PAY PRIVATE VISIT TO US TO WHICH POPOV REJOINED THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING OF OFFICIAL CHARACTER. ARMITAGE SAID HE COULD NOT CONVEY OFFICIAL SANCTION OF VISIT WITHOUT KNOWING MORE OF ITS
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INTENDED CHARACTER AND CONGRESS' PLANS AND NOTED THAT

PROXIMITY OF PROPOSED TRIP TO THAT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
POPOV MIGHT ADD COMPLICATIONS.

3. JULY 29 WE HEARD FROM SPARKMAN'S OFFICE THAT SENATOR
WAS ESSENTIALLY BEING POLITE, HAVING IN MIND RECENT STOP
OVER OF IPU DELEGATION IN SOFIA AND HAD NOT INVITED BONEV
IN ANY SENSE OF SPONSORING DELEGATION EXCHANGE (AND WE
INFERRED WAS THEREFORE TAKING NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR
DELEGATION'S PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON). ARMITAGE CALLED
POPOV AND INFORMED HIM WE HAD DOUBTS THAT WITH POPOV VISIT
COMING IN LATER SEPTEMBER WE WOULD BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN
PROGRAM WHICH BONEV LIKELY TO VIEW AS COMMENSURATE WITH
HIS STATUS AND WONDERED WHETHER TIMING WAS MOST PROPITIOUS
FOR BONEV VISIT. POPOV INDICATED HE WOULD NOT PURSUE
MATTER FURTHER AT THIS TIME BUT RESERVED RIGHT TO RETURN TO
REQUEST FOR VISIT OF THIS TYPE AT SOME LATER DATE. KISSINGER

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